

Listing of Claims

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer implemented method as defined in claim 15~~ A computer implemented method of unlocking a locked resource in a distributed environment, the locked resource having a lock object associated with a lock owner, the method comprising:

receiving a request to access the locked resource, wherein the request originates from a requesting client computer system other than the lock owner and wherein the request comprises a request to break the lock object;

notifying the lock owner of the request to break the lock object;

determining whether the requesting client computer system is permitted to break the lock object; and

removing the lock object from the resource if the requesting client computer system is permitted to break the lock object, wherein the lock object is not removed for a predetermined time following the act of notifying the lock owner of the request to break the lock object.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer implemented method as defined in claim 15~~ A computer implemented method of unlocking a locked resource in a distributed environment, the locked resource having a lock object associated with a lock owner, the method comprising:

receiving a request to access the locked resource, wherein the request originates from a requesting client computer system other than the lock owner and wherein the request comprises a request to break the lock object;

notifying the lock owner of the request to break the lock object;

determining whether the requesting client computer system is permitted to break the lock object; and

removing the lock object from the resource if the requesting client computer system is permitted to break the lock object, wherein the lock object has a timeout property value and the timeout property value is modified to effectively remove the lock object.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system for managing resources in a distributed environment, the distributed environment having a plurality of resources and wherein at least one resource is associated with a lock object, the system comprising:

a receive module for receiving a request from a requesting client application program to access at least one resource in the distributed environment, wherein the requesting client application program further requests to block the resource when requesting access to the resource;

a determination module for determining whether the resource has a conflicting lock object associated with the requested resource; and

a communication module for returning lock information to the requesting client application program if the resource has a conflicting lock object, wherein the lock information returned to the requesting client application program relates to ~~the~~ an expected lifetime of the conflicting lock object;

a blocking module for blocking access to the locked resource by the requesting client application program until the expiration of the expected lifetime of the conflicting lock object; and

an allocation module for providing a new lock object to the requesting client application program following the expiration of the expected lifetime of the conflicting lock object.

20. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in claim 19 wherein:

an owning client application program owns a lock object for the requested resource; and the owning client application program determines the expected lifetime of the lock object.

21. (Original) A system as defined in claim 20 wherein the requesting client application program modifies a request strategy based on received information from the communication module.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A system as defined in claim 25 further comprising A~~ computer system for managing resources in a distributed environment, the distributed environment having a plurality of resources and wherein at least one resource is associated with a lock object, the system comprising:

a receive module receiving a request from a requesting client application program to access at least one resource in the distributed environment, wherein the receive module is adapted to receive a request to break an existing lock object;

a determination module determining whether the resource has an existing lock object associated with the requested resource; and

a communication module returning lock information to the client application program if the resource has an existing lock object, wherein the lock information returned to the requesting client application program relates to an expected lifetime of the existing lock object;

a breaking module removing the existing lock object for the requested resource in response to the receive module receiving a request from the requesting client application program to break the existing lock object; and

a determination module that determines whether the requesting client application program is suitably authorized and wherein the existing lock object is not removed in response to the request to break the lock object unless the requesting client application program is suitably authorized.